GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:153
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
SHORTAGE OF DRUGS
Munshiram Shri ;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage in the reliability of some drugs in the market owing to the conditions imposed under Narcotics Drugs and `Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, enforced by the Government;

(b) if so, the names of the drugs of main diseases Fwhich are in acute shortage;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the shortage of the said drugs is ributed to the drugs manufacturing companies and tributors; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available such drugs in the market and to make necessary amendments to the NDPS Act, 1985?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (e) Representations were received from the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) and various manufacturers, pharmacists and `chemists etc., regarding the difficulties faced by them in adhering to the procedure of transporting the psychotropic substances manufactured and sold under licence issued under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rules, under cover of a Consignment Note in accordance with the provisions of Rule 67 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules.

In view of the difficulties expressed by the trade in adhering to the procedure of Consignment Note under Rule 67 of the NDPS Rule, the Government issued a Gazette Notification GSR 104(E) dated 25th February, 2005 amending the NDPS Rules, 1985 granting exemption from the operation of Rule 67 of the NDPS Rules. 1985 subject to condition that Consignment Note in the prescribed from (Form-6) shall not apply in cases where the sale of the psychotropic substance is accompanied by a sale bill or invoice or cash memo or any other document duly signed by the consignor or his authorized signatory, which shall include the following information about the consignment:

(a) name, address and licence number of the consignor and the consignee;

(b) description, batch number and quantity;

(c) mode and particulars of transport.

Provided further that such document shall be preserved by consignor and consignee for a period of two years for inspection by the notified officers. However, where the consignee is a research institution, registered medical practitioner, hospital or dispensary, the requirement of incorporating licence number of consignee shall not be applicable.